

There is no question but that the Great-horned owl preys upon feathered game of all kinds, but the bird by no means confines itself to that line of diet, for it is equally fond of many of the medium sized and smaller mammals, as opossums, rats, squirrels, young hares, rabbits, etc., and it will, when occasion offers, consume dead fish when washed ashore, in which habit he is surely performing a public service.

Audubon does not say a word about the food of the Screech owl, beyond the fact that it "pursues large beetles"; while on the other hand he devotes the major share of his account of the bird to mixing up fact and tradition in regard to its two phases of plumage, and taking Wilson to task in regard to what he said about it.

Taking everything into consideration, then, with respect to the habits and food of owls, as such matters affect the welfare of man, it is perfectly safe to say, in truth, that upon the whole these birds are good friends to our race in the long run, and fully deserving of our protection and encouragement. To persistently destroy these birds would be a grievous error, as in practically all cases where man has upset the balance of nature, it has generally reacted, in boomrang fashion, by giving him a fearful rap for his pains.

PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, BIRD CENSUS.

BY W. DEW. MILLER AND CHARLES H. ROGERS.

In 1914 we were accompanied by Dr. William H. Wiegmann. We started at 3:50 a. m. from East 7th Street and walked northward across the city and took a devious route through and over the Watchung Mountains to the Passaic River, up whose south bank we went to the Dead River, and up it half a mile to a certain marsh, which we reached just at sunset. Thence we took the shortest road back to North Plainfield, where we boarded a car at 10 p. m., except that W. DeW. M. lingered on the way to listen to the Virginia Rail and got in somewhat later. Weather fine; cool N. W.

breeze; 47° at start, 54° at return. We satisfactorily identified 104 species of birds, which we consider a good list for an absolutely inland region, without water, save for ponds and small streams.

In 1915 we started five minutes later and followed the same route, except that we were forced to take shelter so much from the rain that we did not reach the Dead River till nearly dark, and so did not go up to the marsh, but returned by road to North Plainfield in time for the 9 p. m. car. Weather cloudy except for first two or three hours; frequent showers in a. m.; moderate S. E. wind; 45° at start, 51° at return. Only 89 fully identified species, due partly to the weather and partly to the fact that it was not nearly so much the height of a big wave as it was the previous year.

While not always strictly together, we were always within hail and each of us noted every species recorded except that W. DeW. M. alone heard the Whip-poor-will in 1914 and the Black-Billed Cuckoo in 1915. The numbers of individuals recorded are the result of actual count (as far as possible) and were entered with exceeding frequency during the progress of the hunts. As we both did not hear or see everything, when we differ the larger number is here given, and we believe these numbers to be conservative.

Strangely enough, exactly the same twenty-four species of *Mniotiltidae* were seen each year, but their number of individuals was 334 in 1914 and 186 in 1915, this difference being nearly the difference in the total number of individuals noted, 1112 in 1914, 929 in 1915. The larger numbers of Thrushes and particularly of White-throated Sparrows and Myrtle Warblers in 1915 is noteworthy.

That it is not well on a big day to quit work with the arrival of darkness is shown by the circumstance that in 1914 we added five species to our list after it had grown too dark to see them; these were Virginia Rail, Woodcock, Greater Yellowlegs, Screech Owl and Whip-poor-will. The Woodcock did not even say anything, but we all heard clearly the characteristic twittering of the wings of one which flew

across the road just ahead of us at about the height of telegraph wires.

On May 31st, 1915, C. H. R. followed alone in sixteen hours the complete 1914 route and noted 72 species. This list has been accepted for publication in the August number of "The Oriole," published by The Somerset Hills Bird Club, Bernardsville, N. J.

	1914	1915
Great Blue Heron.....	1	
Green Heron	1	1
Black-crowned Night Heron.....	2	
Virginia Rail	1	
American Woodcock	1	2
Least Sandpiper		7
Greater Yellowlegs	1	
Solitary Sandpiper	4	6
Spotted Sandpiper	15	11
Killdeer	5	
Mourning Dove	10	11
Marsh Hawk	2	1
Cooper's Hawk	2	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1	
American Sparrow Hawk.....	1	
Barred Owl	1	
Screech Owl	1	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		3
Black-billed Cuckoo		1
Belted Kingfisher	2	5
Hairy Woodpecker	2	1
Downy Woodpecker	9	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	
Northern Flicker	10	13
Whip-poor-will	1	
Chimney Swift	31	35
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	2
Kingbird	8	15
Crested Flycatcher	17	14
Phoebe	12	7
Wood Pewee	6	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	
Chebec	9	
Blue Jay	30	15
American Crow	34	22
Starling	7	17
Bobolink	14	5
Cowbird	4	2
Red-winged Blackbird	14	5
Meadowlark	11	8
Orchard Oriole	5	
Baltimore Oriole	20	15

Purple Grackle	12	14
House Sparrow	37	60
American Goldfinch	20	15
Vesper Sparrow	7	5
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	1
Henslow's Sparrow	1	1
White-crowned Sparrow	1	
White-throated Sparrow	6	44
Chipping Sparrow	21	19
Field Sparrow	15	7
Song Sparrow	66	54
Lincoln's Sparrow		3
Swamp Sparrow	6	4
Towhee	13	8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6	5
Indigo Bunting	7	4
Scarlet Tanager	13	7
Purple Martin	4	9
Cliff Swallow	1	2
Barn Swallow	23	20
Tree Swallow	1	12
Rough-winged Swallow	2	11
Cedar Waxwing	3	25
Red-eyed Vireo	12	17
Warbling Vireo		2
Yellow-throated Vireo	8	3
Solitary Vireo	4	
White-eyed Vireo	1	
Black and White Warbler.....	8	9
Worm-eating Warbler	6	2
Blue-winged Warbler	12	11
Nashville Warbler	2	3
Tennessee Warbler	1	1
Northern Parula Warbler.....	22	6
Cape May Warbler.....	3	7
Yellow Warbler	6	3
Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	35	9
Myrtle Warbler	10	27
Magnolia Warbler	32	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	16	3
Bay-breasted Warbler	6	1
Black-poll Warbler	4	1
Blackburnian Warbler	13	3
Black-throated Green Warbler.....	17	9
Oven-bird	25	25
Northern Water-Thrush	12	12
Louisiana Water-Thrush	1	2
Maryland Yellow-throat	42	34
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	1
Wilson's Warbler	8	2
Canada Warbler	23	2
American Redstart	28	7
Catbird	21	18
Brown Thrasher	2	1
House Wren	6	1

White-breasted Nuthatch	2	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	
Tufted Tit	6	5
Chickadee	3	2
Wood Thrush	19	21
Veery	17	22
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	2
Olive-backed Thrush	5	8
American Robin	94	82
Bluebird	4	8

MISSISSIPPI KITE IN NEBRASKA.*

BY PROFESSOR B. H. BAILEY.

In "Birds of Nebraska," by L. Bruner, R. H. Wolcott and M. H. Swenk, page 50, *Ictinia mississippiensis* (Wilson) A. O. U. No. 329 is referred to as follows: "While the known range of this kite would bring it within our borders, the record by R. E. Dinges as given in Bruners' 'Notes on Nebraska Birds' is very likely an error."

The A. O. U. check list gives its range as "Lower Austral Zone from Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Southern Indiana, and South Carolina, South to Texas and Florida; winters in Florida, Southern Texas and South rarely to Guatemala; accidental in Colorado, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania."

While in Omaha, Neb., the writer purchased for the Coe College Museum a specimen of this species which was in a local taxidermist's shop, and which was shot by the man from whom the bird was purchased.

The kite was killed a few miles south of Omaha in November, 1912, and although the sex was not determined at the time it was mounted, the following description from the work by N. S. Goss, "History of the Birds of Kansas," is so in accord with the specimen in hand as to leave no doubt that this bird is a young female. "Head, neck and lower parts white with a yellowish tinge; this most perceptible on the tibiae. Each feather with a median ovate spot of black-

* Read before Iowa Academy of Science, May 1st, 1915.